



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER MORTGAGE BROKER PLEADS GUILTY TO REAL ESTATE FRAUD

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former mortgage brokerage employee pleaded guilty in federal court today to his role in a conspiracy to defraud a mortgage lending company.

Vernon David Williams, 58, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to charges contained in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 7, 2004, in Kansas City.

By pleading guilty, **Williams** admitted that he conspired to defraud MILA, Inc., a mortgage lending company with its principal office in Mountlake Terrace, Wash., and Finance America LLC, a mortgage lending company with its principal office in Irvine, Calif., between July 24 to Sept. 16, 2004.

Williams was a loan employee of mortgage brokerage companies in the Kansas City area at the time of the conspiracy. In carrying out the conspiracy, **Williams** admitted that he prepared and submitted false and fraudulent loan applications and supporting documentation to lenders and that he caused borrowers to sign such applications.

Specifically, **Williams** admitted that Finance America caused Deutsche Bank Trust Co. to send a wire transfer to United Missouri Bank in Kansas City on Aug. 18, 2004, for the purpose of funding a loan in the amount of \$158,251.23. **Williams** admitted that the money was transferred based on false and fraudulent loan applications and supporting documentation that he submitted to Finance America.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Williams** may be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$500,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation

Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda Parker Marshall. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Criminal Division of the Internal Revenue Service and the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow